THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1976

Retired Colonel Denies Heading C.I.A. Unit for Assassinations

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—A retired Army colonel has denied to Senate investigators an assertion by E. Howard Hunt Jr. that the colonel once headed a Central Intelligence Agency unit set up to arrange for the assassinations of suspected double-agents.

The colonel, Boris T. Pash, told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence yesterday that during 1954 and 1955—the period in which Mr. Hunt, a former C.I.A. officer, said he was told that Colonel Pash ran such an operation—he had left the C.I.A. and returned to military service.

In a statement made public by the panel today, Colonel Pash termed Mr. Hunt's assertions "insidious and completely false.

He said he could not recall ever having met or spoken with Mr. Hunt, who is serving a prison term for his role in the Watergage case.

Nor, the colonel said, was he ever "involved in any assassination planning" between 1949 and 1951, the period in which he was temporarily assigned to the C.I.A., or at any other time in his career.

Mr. Hunt said in a recent interview that during his service with the C.I.A.'s Balkans division in the mid-1950's he had discussed with Colonel Pash, at his superiors' behest, the prospective assassination of an individual who was believed to be a double agent.

"I was told that we had that capability," Mr. Hunt said in the interview, and "that the guy to see about this sort o thing was Colonal Pash."

Mr. Hunt, who said that he had understood that Colonel Pash was deceased, added that he did discuss the matter with the colonel, who seemed shocked "that the subject has ever been brought up," and that the matter consequently was left there.

Investigators for the Senate committee are now attempting to interview Mr. Hunt about this assertion, a committee spokesman said.